

APPROVED MINUTES



DRAFT MINUTES Ridgefield Conservation Commission

Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-2713 • conservation@ridgefieldct.org

**Meeting
May 23, 2022 at 7 P.M.**

Present:	Roberta Barbieri	James Coyle	Jack Kace	Erik Keller
	Jean Linville	Jim Liptack	Peter Nichols	Matt Sharp
	Kitsey Snow	Allan Welby		

Absent: Daniel C Levine

Chairman Coyle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

Mr. Coyle asked for three agenda items to be added:

- Open Space to be added to the agenda as an ongoing item
- New Business to be added to current agenda and as an ongoing item
- Barry Ave added to enforcement action

Upon motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Linville), and carried, it was RESOLVED to add three agenda items. Vote 9:0

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

UPON motion duly made (Keller), seconded (Barbieri), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2022 be approved and ordered filed in the Town Hall. Vote: 9-0

2. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

2.1 162 Old West Mountain Road

Andy Hally was unable to attend. Mr. Coyle gave an update. Nothing new to report. Mr. Coyle will follow up with attorney and the IWB.

2.2 Barry Ave

Mr. Coyle will instruct Andy Hally to send out the NOV and work to set a schedule for the owner.

3. MCKEON FARM

3.1 Cornerstone Gardens License

Mr. Coyle gave an update from the BOS meeting. The Cornerstone lease has been approved and is on the agenda for the Town Meeting June 1.

3.2 Fence Update

The project should be complete within the next week.

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3.3 Parking Update

Mr. Coyle let the Commission know he is still waiting on Dave Buccitti with the Highway Department to schedule.

3.4 Pollinator Garden Extension

Ms. Snow will get a cost estimates for the Upper Meadow and will meet with the McKeon subcommittee to determine a formal plan of action on the parcel.

3.5 Apple Trees

Ms. Snow updated the committee on the available trees, sizes and costs for planting six apple trees. The Commission determined it would be more beneficial to plant these in September. Ms. Snow will provide a pricing plan to the commission with details closer to that timeframe.

4. SUMMER WORKERS

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Keller have conducted interviews and we have two applicants to date. Hoping to have them start next week once all their paperwork is complete.

5. NRVT

Ms. Snow and Mr. Coyle met with the IWB to go over alternate routes for the trail, however, noted that the best most likely route is the current trail map plan.

6. NRI UPDATE

Ms. Snow and Ms. Linville are planning an upcoming event for the NRI and will need volunteers from the commission who might be able to help with the Bioblitz on [June 11](#). There will be four sessions starting with one at 7:30 for birding and ending at 5:00pm. They will also have Pond, Field and Forest stations, and will be in need of "floaters" to help with set up and clean-up. Ms. Snow will work with Dan Levine/Conservation Administrator to notify the public and ask for volunteers.

Ms. Linville and Mr. Welby will work together on another event in June, a Nesting Birds Walk at McKeon.

Dr. Kace suggested using content from the RCC's report on deer impacts on forest understory.

Mr. Coyle gave an update on file storage for the NRI Update, which will be using a hard drive and Dropbox as per IT's recommendation. Ms. Linville will work with Conservation Administrator to set up accounts and file organization.

7. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Nothing new to report.

8. MEETINGS FOR ATTENDANCE

There were no changes to report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welby gave an update on the recent beaver activity at Bennett's Pond, he checked in with DEEP and it was determined to let nature takes it course.

Mr. Nichols reported on the monument at Barracks Hill. Mr. Nichols will request more mulch from the Parks and Rec Department and have the summer workers weed whack around the monument in efforts to keep the monument more visible.

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10. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Coyle encouraged all members to attend the upcoming BOS meeting on June 1. There are three RCC related items on the agenda: the RCC contributed to the town's Bronze certification from Sustainable CT and will be recognized; the Town Meeting for the Cornerstone lease; and the discussion of the Town Open Space Declaration.

ADJOURNMENT

UPON motion duly made (Barbieri), seconded (Sharp), and carried, it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting adjourn at 8:53P.M. Vote: 9:0.